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Submission of Proposed Digest Item

Major Change in Purpose of East Germany's Black Pump Combine Announced.

Neues Deutschland, 31 Aug, announced an indefinite postponement in the construction of the coking plants for the Black Pump Combine. Coke production was a major reason for the construction of this giant complex, planned to be the largest industrial enterprise in East Germany. According to the recent announcement, capacity for brown coal briquette production is to be increased instead, while the USSR will supply East Germany with coke.

Comment:

The economic justification for the production of coke from East Germany's brown coal has long been in question. This change in plans may reflect both this consideration and the current need for fuels and power in East Germany in line with recent Soviet-led Bloc policy designed to emphasize those projects leading to the most rapid economic gains.

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